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## NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO THE 4-H CLUBS

A radio talk by C. W. Warburton, Director of Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, January 5, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate-NBC radio stations.

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You have heard Ralph McKenzie, Elizabeth Cheseboro, and State Club Leader Kinney tell what extension plans for past years have enabled 4-H young people to do. Now I am sure you join me in wishing them and all 4-H club members and their friends a new year with even more challenging problems and heartening accomplishments.

We have been especially proud of our 4-H club members these last few years. They have faced so many difficulties without admitting discouragement. They have often laid aside cherished plans in order to take on the expense of schooling, sometimes to carry on a large part of their families' thrift measures, and the year 1934 seemed to bring more than its share of hard situations to these cheerfully courageous young people. Emergencies of drought and of agricultural adjustment, measures for relief and rehabilitation crowded the extension workers' programs. Devoted volunteer leaders and club members went on with the club undertakings as best they could and commendable reports are coming in of work well done.

Now that we are starting a new year, how about a look at our plans to see what we can do to make 1935 a step forward for these 920 thousand farm boys and girls?

You may be sure that 4-H club members are going ahead with the main activities, such as growing gardens, canning food for winter use, caring for poultry flocks, raising beef and dairy animals, sheep and pigs, making and repairing clothing, making the home more comfortable and attractive. Older members will carry more responsibility and their undertakings will be somewhat larger in scale than those of the younger group. They will be encouraged to consider the relation of their club demonstration enterprise to the conduct of the whole farm or the management of the home. All club members, as in previous years, will keep records, make reports, and exhibit their work.

Club meetings will provide the same excellent occasions for good training in parliamentary practice, for discussions of problems met in carrying on the projects, and increasingly, I believe, will these club meetings give opportunity for discussing the problems that affect agriculture and rural living. The discussions at the club members' conferences each day during the National Club Camps here in Washington last summer gave us older people much to think about. The interest of 4-H club groups in the problems of the day encourage us to look forward to strong rural leadership as these young people take their place in the management of public affairs.

One of the admirable features of 4-H club meetings is the fact that they are so often held in the homes of club members. Each year sees more

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clubs meeting at the members' work centers interest in and about the home. The projects in there. They are for the benefit of the home or of the farm about the home. Club enterprises help the boy or girl to see the fine things near at hand and to appreciate their value.

Mutual discussion of their 4-H club projects in meetings has led 4-H young people to do other interesting things cooperatively, such as organize into choruses, bands and orchestras, into dramatic groups, sports teams and other forms of recreation that are community affairs. One of the good things to come from the struggle farm people have had during these hard years, I am sure, is a deeper appreciation for the rural community which the people who live in it are beginning to feel. Parents and club leaders sympathize with the young people's desire for something to replace the entertainment and recreation which they formerly got outside of the community. They have found as much satisfaction and pleasure in the young people's efforts to supply this need as have the boys and girls, themselves. I believe the rural community continues to offer the best environment for the development of American life. Four-H club members have contributed much to community development and I am sure will contribute much more in the future.

During the past year agricultural extension agents have given much time to wheat, corn-hogs, and other adjustment programs. Home demonstration agents have been busy with relief and other emergency work. This has meant that the agents have been compelled to give less attention than usual to the 4-H clubs.

We are starting the new year, however, with much more experience in these emergency activities. With the familiarity of thousands of farmer committeemen with corn-hog, wheat, and cotton adjustment work, we hope that the extension agents may be relieved of some of the details of these programs, and have more time for 4-H club work and other long time extension activities. But an indispensable factor in the progress of the clubs will continue to be the volunteer leader. The men and women who give time, energy and thought to enable the young people of their communities to have this training, are rewarded only in the pleasure of working with enthusiastic, hopeful boys and girls. Last year more than seventy thousand men and women earned this reward. Without the unselfish efforts of these leaders, a great many boys and girls would have been deprived of this constructive, stabilizing experience. Thirty-four thousand former club members remained with the clubs as local leaders. We look forward to a more satisfying year for local leader, club member and extension worker.

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